Beyond Contact: Codex

by RiptideZ

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Summary: The Codex is an informational guide to the "Beyond Contact" universe. It provides information on species, technology, factions, and trivia; the guide will update as the story expands.

1. UCE

**The first chapter of this Codex, while it isn't much, this should cover all my Halo stories I write. This currently includes End of War: The Rainforest Wars, Beyond Contact, Monster, and the possibly upcoming Spartan or Demon and A Swan Song. May also cover Mass Effect stories as well such as the upcoming The Council's Snow Globe and The Bigger Fish.**

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Chapter 1: UCE

Words: 8841

Franchise: Halo, Mass Effect

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United Cantons of Earth and Colonies â€“ UCE

"_**For us, the storm has passed. The war is over. But let us never forget those who journeyed into the howling dark and did not return. For their decision required courage beyond measure...sacrifice, and unshakable conviction that their fight; our fight, was elsewhere. As we start to rebuild, this hillside will remain barren, a memorial to heroes fallen. They ennobled all of us, and they shall not be forgotten.**_**"** â€“ Admiral Lord Terrance Hood (2487 â€“ Present), at the Memorial Event to the Battle of Earth â€“ March 2553

The **United Cantons of Earth and Colonies**, abbreviated as **UCE**, is a human-exclusive faction originating from the Milky Way Galaxy's Orion Arm. As of 2553, the end of the Human-Covenant War, the UCE administrates a formal 124 planets and 64 colony worlds including the Human homeworld, Earth; the population is estimated to be about 16 billion individuals. The UCE contains many interior departments that maintain the faction's formal government, most notably the UNSC. *Note: the term _Canton_, refers to a state, region, or district, based on the historical French/Swedish province system.

[_Type of Government â€“ Representative/Parliamentary Democracy_]

[_Constitution â€“ The UN Castillo Charter_]

[_Head of State â€“ "President" Dr. Ruth Shannon Charet, Reformist Party_]

[_Date of Establishment â€“ 2178_]

[_Currency â€“ UN Credit_]

[_Capital â€“ Earth, Multiple Locations_]

[_Language â€“ English (Most Spoken), others_]

History

The UCE traces its own origins as far back to the historical-Human Age of the 1900s Anno Domini/Common Era, where nation-states were still the standard formula to governance. During this time period, Humanity was spread out along borders not completely defined by geographical, economic, and cultural lines but that of national identity, or nationalism, a continued belief that is not only found among the modern UCE, but among many of the species and factions today.

"_**For four decades following 1900, Humanity was subjected to the greatest planetary conflicts in Human history only dwarfed by the Interplanetary War of the 2160s. These four decades would be the first step toward unification of the Human race, two major wars simply referred to as World War One and World War Two, taking place from 1914 to 1918 and again from 1939 to 1945

respectively.**_

**The first world peace organization was the League of Nations, created under the coordination of the United States and Great Britain, however, it's existence was short-lived after the primary loser of World War One, Germany, left the negotiating table along with the Empire of Japan, the loss of two Great Powers accelerated the organization's demise and later led to the Second World War. The Second World War became the estimated, third deadliest conflict with the highest estimated death toll at nearly 85 million casualties, however, the recent Human-Covenant War exceeded this number as that death count surged into the billions.**

**Following World War Two, the victors of the conflict formed the United Nations, a successor organization to the defunct League in 1945 designed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and American President Franklin Roosevelt; these victors, the nations of the United States of America, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union of Russia, the British Empire, and the French Republic, all Great Powers, became the defense coalition of this international peace organization, the United Nations Security Council, also known as the UNSC. The five members were given unrestrained power and influence in future world politics, an issue that would not be subject to reform for over eight decades. Under these unrestricted powers, the P5, the Permanent Council Members each had the power to veto legislation passed by the organization's lower wards. From this, international law was put to a near standstill.**

**However, the creation of the UN did not bring the world into balance for these supposed allies, instead the Human analogy of "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." During World War Two, the Soviet Union was looked upon with suspicion by its allies as in the middle of the war, the Communist nation had decided to switch sides after its supposed ally, Nazi Germany, turned its weapons on the Soviets in an attempt to get their hands on the Russian oil fields, however, with the support of the Western allies of the United States and Great Britain, Russia was able to push back the tide and eliminate Germany from the war. However, later on, the Soviet Union and the United States entered an arms race for developing the first super weapon in Human history, the nuclear bomb. The first two weapons ever deployed by the United States, were used during the Second World War against the Empire of Japan that brought the Empire of the Rising Sun to a standstill.**

**The clash between the two "superpowers," of Russia and the United States, referring to the next rendition of an Empire, rather than a nation that relies on territories, superpowers were nations with global influence and hopelessly outclassed all other nations in terms of economics, culture, and military might. The two nations, the United States of America, capitalist in nature, believing in mostly unrestricted freedoms and the inheritor of the "West," after the fall of both France and Great Britain from the imperial age. The Soviets were communist in contrast, believing in equality through control, and became the most powerful nation in the Eastern Hemisphere. This arms race went down in history books, as the "Cold War," not because of its lack of warfare, but because of the negative and trying emotions that hung over the world during these 40 years of hostilities.**

_**Instead of direct confrontation between these two Great Powers,

these nations instead chose to intervene in conflicts across the globe in attempts to reign in allies and negate the spread of each other's political and economic ideologies. The events that occurred during the Cold War were most notable with the advents of the Vietnam War, the first loss the American military had suffered since the War of 1812, and their less-than-impressive stalemate in the Korean War 2 decade later. The Russians also saw their own issues occur in Afghanistan where attempts to invade were faltered by Mujahedeen fighters, Afghan countrymen willing to fight for their freedom, were armed by the American intelligence organization, the Central Intelligence Agency. The events of the Soviet emplacement of nuclear weapons in Cuba off the coast of the United States and the United States in return placing nuclear weapons on Russia's border in Turkey. There was the democratic Republic of China's sacking off the mainland by the People's Republic of China led by Communist leader, Mao Zedong, and the formation of the military unions of the capitalist nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the communist Warsaw Pact.**_

**In the end, the Cold War, also referred to as World War Three by some individuals for its factor of encompassing the whole globe, ended in 1991 with victory going to the United States, rather than through militaristic elimination but through economic warfare. The United States outspent and outpaced the Soviet Union's economic machine and the United States drove the Soviet Union into the ground through debt. The Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact were dissolved and Russia was reorganized into the Russian Federation and the Warsaw Pact quickly fell into disarray.**

_**At the twilight of the 20**__**st**__** century, the last superpower, the United States of America, was left to guide the world and the threat of escalated conflict and mutually assured destruction ended, for a time. The twenty first century, also referred to as the Information Age or the American Era, was however, not a modern renaissance as some hoped. Nor was it a collapse of the modern society; the 21**__**st**__** century would become a rejuvenation in older and newer ideologies and technologies but also a time of intensified conflict, a world that Humanity had never seen until now.**_

_**The most prominent opening event of the 21**__**st**__** century is undisputedly the September 11**__**th**__** attacks in 2001, when Al Qaeda agents, a Islamic extremist group, hijacked multiple civilian aircraft on the American East Coast and performed suicide bombings on prominent military and economic locals including the US Pentagon building and the New York City World Trade Centerâ€”"The Twin Towers." The casualty rate was 2977 victims and countless injured or missing, the loss of infrastructure was far reaching with even the world economy taking a hit, the American government under then President George W. Bush declared the first major war of the 21**__**st**__** century, "The War on Terror."**_

_**The 9/11 attacks, as they were dubbed, would have unrecognized far-reaching effects on the globe, since the collapse of the USSR in 1991 and before then around the 1970s, it was becoming evident that America was going to be the victor of the Cold War. As long as the Soviet Union or the United States did not turn to the use of nuclear weapons at any possible time. Following 9/11, many countries allies and enemies alike realized, America was not as invincible as many had thought. The events in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq from 2001 to

2014 started because of 9/11 only further supported the belief that America was also waning in strength and the next decades would give rise to a more multipolar world, one without US dominance as a given.**_

**Records show that the wars in Afghanistan, started because the leader of Afghanistan, the leadership of the political-military organization, the Taliban, was harboring the leader of Al Qaeda, Arabic for "The Base," Osama bin Laden in his country. A subsequent invasion occurred and much like the previous Gulf War, NATO led by America and Britain utterly defeated its enemy with a significantly smaller force in the opening moments, however, the successes quickly dried up as setback after setback made the occupation of the Middle Eastern nation and later the same for one Iraq less and less manageable or popular. In Iraq, much like Afghanistan, NATO forces invaded with unprecedented success in the opening moments. The War in Iraq would grow out of hand with the power vacuum that came with the collapse of the Hussein government leading to infighting between different religious sects and a guerrilla campaign waged by insurgents of multitudes of smaller factions that were known to fight themselves as well as invading foreigners.**

**The West as they were known, NATOs' populations eventually got sick of the wars thought to be perpetrated by American neo-imperialism in a post-imperial age. The wars ended after a decade and a half with minor injuries and a half completed job of rebuilding both nations from the ground up; the United States and her allies failed to remember the mistakes and the lessons they learned from the obvious failures that had occurred in the last two major wars the West had fought since 1950: the Vietnam and Korean Wars, one a seeming failure and the other a half complete victory. The reason for the military victories in all 4 wars but all political losses was the quick and disastrous retreat brought on by public unrest from an unpopular war.**

_**While the first two wars of the 21**__**st**__** century ended, the "War on Terror" had not. The war on terrorism was a prospect no longer of conventional warfare and wars between European and Asian powers. The focus had shifted from empire war mongering to the fight against radicalism and extremism, direct conflict was a relic of the past not to be seen for some time. No longer did military experts and analysts look at war as a dispute between large organized war machines clashing in direct conflict. Now the enemy's identity had shifted to bands of civilians that had taken up arms and produce acts of violence under the pretense of "guerrilla warfare." The old ways, wars between developed nations with mature economies and nationalistic populations ready to fight against any invader, this had been referred to as "conventional warfare." The 21**__**st**__** century wars however were often referred to as "unconventional warfare," because of its relatively new popularity. Unconventional Warfare dates as far back as the Agricultural Revolution but the actual usage of the technique for continued conflict had only become a viable option in the 1950s with the Vietnam, Korean, and Afghan Wars that defined the Cold War a few decades before the War on Terror.**_

_**The new threats of terrorism were not primary actions by nations against one another for ideology or territory, but by cells geared toward beliefs from all walks of life: religious zealots, warlord, drug cartels, mafias, political radicals, Eco terrorists,

hacktivists, cults, etc. Historians have noted that while the War on Terror had brought back bloodshed, wars by Mankind were on a downward trend overall with the American Century being the most nonviolent century in history until that of the 23**__**rd**__** and 24**__**th**__** centuries.**_

_**The War on Terror is still disputed by many professionals on its current end today, however the official date is March 3**__**rd**__**, 2028.**_

**In 2014, the far-reaching effects on 9/11 finally came to a head; the Russian Federation took the Ukrainian territory of Crimea for its military bases and strategic position of including a rental for a Russian naval base and its primary access to the Black Sea, Russia's most southern body of water shared with multiple Islamic nations and former Soviet republics. The war that eventually led to Russia annexing Crimea and funding an ethnic Russian rebel nation, known as the People's Republic of Donetsk, which led to the ensuing "War for Donetsk," fought between Russia, Ukraine, and the PRD. Ultimately, the war would end only a year later in 2015 where a peace talk was convened at the behest of the United Nations Security Council between the United States and Russia. The ending treaty allowed the PRD to exist, Ukraine would receive back most its assets gained from the seizure of Crimea and a large swath of land from the PRD, and Russia would keep the small peninsula.**

**Another war broke out in 2014, when the Syrian military was suddenly and quickly split between the faction that stuck behind the dictator, Al Assad, and the democratic supporting military group, the Free Syrian Army. American and Russian intervention were limited to confiscating Al Assad's WMD stash, a considerable amount of sarin gas, anthrax warheads, neurotoxin VX, and Yperite, given to the US military to be disposed of properly.**

**The Syrian Civil War would soon become more than a war however, with the rise of many groups including Islamic extremists and ideological upstarts that made the Crisis even worse as more and more groups joined the infighting, Assad's regime remained in control of most of Western Syria but the land East was notably lawless, split between FSA which became the Syrian National Coalition backed by NATO-affiliate nations providing supplies and weaponry, the foreign Islamic Brotherhood, the largest Muslim extremist group in the world, and the newly formed ISIS, a successor to Iraqi Al Qaeda which had broken off and become a regional power. **

**The ISIS group, known as Islamic State in Iraq and Syria/Levant, was a self-proclaimed Islamic Caliphate comparable to that of the Ottomans that had fallen at the close of World War One. ISIS became the largest aggressor against Assad, managing to take most of East Syria and the mountains of Northwest Iraq and managed to even encircle Baghdad, the capital of Iraq revealing the effectiveness and growing power of the new group. ISIS was met with worldwide hostility and in 2014 became the most controversial Islamic group in the Middle East, the most bitter of enemies and rivals like Saudi Arabia and Iran, found common ground to fight against ISIS because of its growing strength. At first, much of the West was inclined to sit the war out; Canada, France, Britain, and the US being the primary fighters including Canadian military forces being the first Western soldiers to fight against the new Caliphate in 2015.**

**In 2017, 4 days before Christmas, Islamic State affiliates ransacked Vatican City in Italy, the capital for Catholic Christianity, and burned down the Vatican Library and destroyed priceless religious artifacts. The Pope escaped unharmed but 58 people were killed and over 300 injured in the attacks that prompted full scale retaliation against ISIS. The NATO-ISIS War lasted 7 years ending in 2024; it took a deployment of over 140,000 NATO troops and a war that lasted until 2024 to effectively defeat them, however, ISIS successors and remnants would remain ideological menaces until 2028 when the War on Terror was officially ended. Other conflicts during the time period of 2001 to 2028 during the War on Terror included the Yemeni Civil War and the Israeli-Palestine Crisis that lasted a brief 3 months of escalated fighting between the IDF and Hamas of Palestine, eventually it was broken up by a UN resolution that proclaimed that Israel and Palestine could no longer be separate and that the segregation and continued cultural invasion by Israelites into Palestine territory could no longer continue forcing a decade long peace talk and eventual integration of the two societies into one. No longer was there a separate Palestine or Israel, but one official state of the Land. Bitter rivalry between the Islamic and Jewish inhabitants of the small country would continue for decades onward.**

**Chinese and Japanese forces in 2018 had a stiff standoff in the South China Sea with Japan being backed by Indonesian, Filipino, and Southeastern nations because of a recent Chinese move of firing on Japanese and Filipino fishing boats in contested waters. The standoff escalated further when Japan began to actively put planes on their helicopter carriers, American-built VTOL fighters, and sent the impromptu carriers into the Chinese claimed waters without Chinese military response beyond deploying a number of warships to intercept. The event would end with no casualties but several civilian injuries. However, with Chinese and Japanese hate coming to a head, many would fear open warfare in East Asia in years to come. Even after China's conversion to a Constitutional Republic in 2030, hostilities remained due to expansionist and economic issues between the two regional powers.**

**In 2022, the United States passed a full legalization bill of the controversial drug, marijuana and taxed the item making it highly unprofitable in an attempt to stem drug traffickers from Latin American countries. However, fighting continued to intensify after a 3 year downturn in violence leading to an eventual total collapse of Mexico's government and leading to US-Canadian intervention. The Sinaloa-American War or Cartel War as it became known, was a 5 year insurrection between American and remaining Mexican military and police forces against the Drug Cartels, primarily the Los Zetas, the Knights Templar, Gulf Cartel, the Tijuana, and Sinaloa Cartels. Eventually, as the North American coalition for the most part, pacified each region one by one, it became evident that rebuilding Mexico's government up from scratch would take years and eventually the fallen nation was dubbed a protectorate of the United States.**

_**The legalized occupation of Mexico by the United States would be ridiculed by many domestic Americans and Mexicans in the region and even in the international communities even costing US key partners in Latin America due to the takeover. The treaty, North American Mutual Assistance Agreement (NAMAA), reminded many people of the Era of Empires much like the War in Donetsk had in retrospect for

Russia.**_

**2026: The Russian Federation and European Union share a brief war in the skies over Eastern Europe due to climbing gas prices and a stalling Russian economy. It lasted 128 days; called the Slavic Oil War or the Russo-European War, and encompassed a halted invasion of Crimea by European Mariners, an attack on European oil rigs in the North Sea by two Russian submarines, and a major air conflict that killed over 200 pilots and 4000 civilians. Ultimately, Europe won the war militarily but backed down because of the cost of oil in comparison to Europe's numerical and technological advantage in the air. Europe, following the war stopped relying heavily on Russian natural resources looking to space, alternative fuels, and African/Middle Eastern alternatives establishing the Trygve Lie Highway/Oil Line, the longest oil pipeline in the world going from central Africa and Saudi Arabia to as far north as Sweden.**

**In 2034, the United Nations Security Council finally received its long-awaited reformation spearheaded by "progressive" leaders US President Kevin Phillips, Chinese President Shun Wei and British Prime Minister Richard Grayson; the permanent member tally was increased from 5 to 15 opening up new spots on the Council to many of the world's most developed nations: Germany, Japan, Brazil, India, Poland, South Korea, Venezuela, Egypt, Israel, and Australia. Many nations and institutions paned the rise of the UN, but little notable protest occurred.**

**In 2038, a joint NASA-ESA space mission to Mars and private ventures by multinational organizations reignited the Space Race. Many space-capable nations turned to space for alternative fuels that left the nations without access to space in the dust. By this time, the United States had become a leader in the process of corporatizing the Final Frontier. In the time since 2025, the US had increased its satellite arrays and space weaponry to include 40 planetary bombardment stations, based off the old SDI project that placed kinetic weapons into Earth's orbit and to have over 200 solar-radiation conversion arrays that beamed solar energy back to Earth in the form of radiation to be turned into electricity. Many private based firms had put up millions of cheap high-definition satellite cameras into orbit to allow space and Earth watching much similar to the previously used GPS system. The other 4 groups in the race included the European Union, Russia, China, and Japan.**

**The largest orbital station in 2038 became the Chinese Legend II module, a hub built to prepare routine flights to Mars measuring about 700 meters in length, the largest satellite ever built. The European Union established the first Moon colony in 2040 with a population of 50 that managed automated machinery that harvested the valuable Helium-3 and used a moon Space Tether attached to a rotating living cylinder that simulated Earth gravity.**

**2042, a private company, Space X, captured a kilometer long asteroid with a long-range drone and maneuvered it back to Earth's orbit parallel to the moon (took 12 years, launched in 2030) and began the largest outer space strip mining project in Human history.**

_**2054, the Japanese complete the first Earth-based space tether and in 2056, the first American space tether is completed in Chicago and

the Chinese built space tether built in Shanghai in 2057 also followed.**_

_**By 2058, North Korea has a falling out and strikes out against South Korea, Japan, and China all at once; no longer able to maintain its population and quickly seizes South Korea and taking portions of Manchuria and forcing Northern Japan into a nuclear EMP blackout even with the Japanese Nuclear Shield due to detonation in low orbit, a region where the defense system did not protect; the nuclear shield was first developed by the North Americans and Europeans in the first decade of the 21**__**st**__** century.**_

**The subsequent Second Korean War lasted about 98 days with a coalition of UNSC affiliate states driving down hard on North Korea starting with a kinetic bombardment of North Korean forces attempting to cross the DMZ leaving a smoldering crater visible from orbit. The war lasted 83 days and was spent with Chinese forces crushing North Korean forces from the north, American and European aircraft attacking high value targets and a South Korean and American retaliation force from the ground. The War ended with the fall of the Kim dynasty in the opening moments but was forced to continue for another two years due to lengthy campaigns to seize the North Korean nuclear stocks before they disappeared from the country's inventory and on to the black market. The Republic of United Korea was formed and the Chinese received a portion of peninsula to the north in compensation. Japan and China continued their hostilities even when being allied against North Korea, it wasn't until 2063, right before the Oil Wars began, that hostilities finally ceased.**

**Increased unity among the more developed nations is indisputably the cause for the Oil Wars between 2063 and 2112 waged by numerous "third-world" nations. It increased the rift between the rich and poor of the Earth. Helium-3 refineries on the Moon became the new oil of the Developed World, advanced solar arrays orbiting the Earth, air purification factories, wave farms, nuclear power, and other modern technologies provided the rich and developed middle class with unlimited electrical energy, and lack of conflict ushered in new opportunities for those involved, but, in the wake of the pursuit in Future Tech, the developing world was left in the dust with the decreased levels in in the production and trade of oil.**

**The Oil Wars occurred when the need of oil from South American Venezuela and Southwest Asia fell through the floor when the largest importers of gasoline turned to alternative fuels, many oil corporations suddenly either swapped to newer tech or went bankrupt overnight. The smaller and more dependent nations now found their dependency on the oil trade no longer profitable and the only option to continue to maintain their hold was to fight for control of the oil itself. The Middle East, Africa, and South America became battlegrounds and the final conclusion of seizure of these lands brought Iran, long considered the kingpin of the terror nations, to become a regional power on par with that of alternative fuel-based nations such as Egypt, Israel, and South Africa. Venezuela usurped Argentina as the second Great Power in South America, and Pakistan and India experienced a brief increase in escalated conflict before Pakistan's government fell, unable to compete with its modernized Hindu brother and was absorbed into Iran's small swath of territory after a period of anarchy in the country. **

_**A last testament to the Oil Wars, separate to the Oil Wars, was

the Saudi-Iranian War a 21 year conflict between the Saudi Arabians and the Iranians over the region's oil fields. The war ended without a defined conclusion but a decade later the Arabian Peninsula was absorbed by both Israel, Iran, and Egypt.**_

_**Following 2063, the organization of the world began to greatly shift. For the developed nations, unity had become an attainable goal. The NAFTA, North American Free Trade Agreement, established in 1994, became the North American Commerce Agreement with the US invasion of Mexico in 2022, and then in 2077 became the United Republic of North America, a union of the North American continent into a singular entity because of the United States' eventual cultural overtaking of Canada that the two governments had become essentially the same in function and policy eventually melding together forming a council and then a competition among political parties become a new constitutional republic following in the example of the EU in 2048. FSAN, the Federation of South American Nations formed in 2140 because of pressure caused by the URNA and the EU. TUIP, the Trade Union of India and the Pacific was also formed in 2098 and much like the EU of the first half of the 21**__**st**__** century, had relaxed border moderation to allow increased commerce but the group did not unite as its Western counterparts did and remained divided. An African Union was suggested, however, the African Union would only include 6 states in Northern Africa and would not last with the rise of KIFA in later years.**_

**In 2158, there was a renewed spark in terrorism as shown in the organized but diffused organization of KIFA, the Kingdom of Islamic Faith in Africa, when radicals deployed truck bombs carrying "bunker-buster" payloads and targeted the economically-important oil pipeline and transcontinental passage, the Trygve Lie Highway, named after the first United Nations Security-General. The death toll counting over 20,000 deaths and costing trillions of Euros making it the deadliest terror plot in Human history. The event became known as the "Burning Sea Incident," where the thousands of gallons of oil that leaked into the Mediterranean Sea and burned for weeks, the fires and smoke could even be seen from orbit.**

**In the ensuing conflict, the European Union spent four years, ending in 2162, ruthlessly hunting down every single cell of the KIFA terror network and went to war with Iran, a nation without any affiliation with KIFA but was known as one of the last bastions for terrorist groups in the world. While KIFA was defeated quickly as the West had learned greatly from the shaky experiment in the War on Terror and later NATO-ISIS War nearly a century earlier, there was still KIFA's unknown partners and the unexpected turn of events that followed that made the EU-KIFA War so significant. Among the immediate affects, the collapse of the African Union left Egypt and the less prominent South Africa as the last standing powers in Africa and the economic downturn caused by KIFA's Burning Sea Incident.**

_**In 2084, taking over the previously held spot for largest military of the People's Liberation Army of China, the Egyptian-founded private military organization, Misriah Global Security Incorporated was born. It quickly usurped the top spot on the list of PMC groups and brought down the mercenary king, Supplement Defense Company due primarily because of its funding from the richest man on Earth at the time, the first multinational trillionaire, Adam bin Faud bin Hahadur bin Laham, or known as Adam bin Laham, a Egyptian Native and one of

the largest shareholders in Google and several other prominent corporations. Not seen before in history, private military corporations had never established their own foreign policies; until now.**_

**Misriah had more buying power than even some nation's entire economies including South Africa and Argentina. Following KIFA's collapse and UN actions attempting to shut down "inhumane" corporate testing of Humans on the Jovian Moons, Misriah was hired by German corporations to cause economic and military damage to the larger nations that had supported the sanctions and freezing of assets. Misriah for another year created unrest on Earth, Luna, Mars, and multiple minor colonies with affiliation to the United Nations to create enough conflict to turn the groups focus by egging on a war between India and Iran, another corporate standoff between China and Japan, and providing weapons to terror groups in FSAN, primarily on its border with URNA, in Panama. By 2163, a year before disaster, the TUIP organization collapsed from infighting.**

**The same year, Ukrainian-born Vladimir Koslov, international terrorist and Communist hardliner, gained a foothold in Russian politics and supported terror plots in the already dwindling European Union. A derivative group in the Federation with similar Communist intentions referred to as "Revolution Seekers" birthed out of Argentina, adopted the platform of "The Burning West" and "Rise of the South;" the group blamed the URNA for their economic woes and publicly left the UN General Assembly. On the Jovian Moons orbiting Jupiter, German corporate colonies, referred to as the Friedens, declared themselves independent from United Nation regulations, calling "destruction to the Oppressors of Terra Firma." The colonial independence movement reached even Luna and Mars where former colonies began to rebel against the UN and their sponsor nations.**

**By 2164, the eruption and destruction that had taken up much of Humanity's claims began one of the deadliest conflicts in Human history: the Interplanetary War.**

**In 2170, the War against Neo-Fascism and Neo-Communism, sponsored by Friedens and Koslovics respectively, came to a close with victory going to the centralized UNSC military, a coalition of the most secure and stable militaries and economies still standing on Earth. The war had gotten so bad that borders between the nations had all but evaporated and instead of returning to the nation-state era, the UN reorganized itself into the United Cantons of Earth and colonies in 2170. The losers of the War were looked upon with scrutiny and led to a brief economic downturn from the war and economics affected."**

â€“ _Taken from "The Rainforest Wars," by CPT. (retired) Jeremiah Mendez_

For the next two centuries, war was not a reality, a united Human front was working under one banner to spread their species across the stars. The Sol System had become too crowded for Humans in the 22nd century, so at the twilight of the 23rd, in 2291, a team of scientists led by esteemed Tobias Shaw and Wallace Fujikawa, developed the first faster-than-light propulsion system, the Shaw-Fujikawa Translight Engine, a device that opens up unstable wormholes to higher dimensions that allowed starships to transverse

long distances and completely escaping the issues of conventional space travel such as Relativity, the Speed of Light, and multiple technological paradoxes. This development created a chain reaction and alleviated Humanity from a predicted population catastrophe even after the Interplanetary War, a century later.

Within the dawn of the 24th century, the first colony ships depart the Sol System to locate and settle the rumored worlds that astrologists had been studying and discovering since the early 21st century. By 2380, the UCE "empire" spanned over 90 light years from the Sol system. Until the 25th century, wars and violence were nonexistent. The richest colonial worlds popped up and Humanity prospered. Harvest. Reach. Meridian. New Hope. Jericho VII. Midway. Cascade. Emerald Cove. Mars. Earth. People were born, they grew, they lived, they cared for the next generation, and then they passed. Life was fulfilling and it was good. But below all the bliss and happiness, Humanity continued to find themselves taking advantage of each other, and in 2491, violence finally returned.

Even among peace time, there were those that believed that the set establishment was wrong and as done countless times before, the rebellions were not bloodless but they were put down with brute efficiency. In 2491, however, the first real threat to the peace emerged not from far off colonies at the edge of Human Space, but within. Born out of the Inner Colonies, turmoil broke out when overzealous members of the UNSC fired upon a nonviolent protest by employees of an unnamed corporation for its terrible human rights record and trillions of credits in unpaid wages. The protest was cut down in what became known as the "Sundance Massacre," while the UNSC quickly censored the event and the Major that ordered the shooting was discharged from the Marine Corps via military investigation and tribunal, rogue elements of the Colonial Administration Authority, the colonial administration department of the UCE, leaked the information to the distant colonies at the edge of Human Space far away from the more prominent UNSC influence.

In 2492, the Outer Colony of Far Isle, erupted in violent rebellion, the rebellion was put down by a UNSC Naval Taskforce via orbital-deployed nuclear weapons. The event triggered the largest backlash by UCE citizens in recorded history with the eruption of undeclared civil war and full unrestricted conflict that turned the Outer colonies into a war zone.

Violence during the era would continue into 2525 when unexpected contact with an outside party of extraterrestrial origin made an appearance above the Inner Colony of Harvest, considered UCE's largest exporter of agricultural products. The discovery of the Covenant, an extraterrestrial, religious coalition of multiple species founded around a caste hierarchy as it was later found out, turned violent with the blunt invasion and later "glassing" or plasmatic bombardment of the colony's surface turning its surface to glass. While the initial battle was kept a secret to the Human species, it became impossible to keep a secret and the UCE government on February 22nd, 2528 announced first contact with the Covenant and admitted to be losing a war against the alien aggressor.

The UNSC absorbed the CAA and declared martial law across all of Human space and took up emergency powers to put its entire economy and entire military power against the Covenant juggernaut. Even the majority of the Insurrection factions put down their weapons and

agreed to a hasty armistice so that Human forces could completely focus on the alien threat.

For 3 decades, Humanity fought a losing battle as the Covenant Juggernaut dug a path into Human space heading for Earth. The centerpiece of the Covenant religion was the worship of a long dead race of advance aliens from 100,000 years ago, referred to as the Forerunners. Any and all artifacts were considered holy relics.

Major battles rippled through the Orion Arm, the most well-known were the Contact at Harvest, Admiral Presten Cole's Final Stand, the Fall of Reach, and the Battle of Earth. The war came to a turning point when the leading caste of aliens, the San 'Shyuum, removed the main warrior caste, the Sangheili, from the Covenant's ranks causing infighting and what became known as the Great Schism of 2552. Only weeks before the betrayal, the centerpiece of the Covenant religion of worshipping Forerunner artifacts, the Halos, large rings constructed by the Forerunners for an unknown purpose, were found. Onboard these large habitation structures, an alien parasite, the Flood, was discovered.

The former enemies of Humanity, the Sangheili and their alliance, the Covenant Separatists led by the alien Arbiter joined forces with the Humans to fight the Covenant Loyalists, the remaining castes of the Covenant. At an ancient expansive Forerunner structure outside the Milky Way Galaxy known as the Ark, the Separatist-Human Coalition defeated the Loyalists and ended the war in the spring of 2553.

The fragmented castes of the Covenant were left to their own devices as the UCE began to reconstruct their state among the stars. To this day, the UNSC and their former Covenant allies are running clean-up operations against the Covenant Loyalist footholds in the Glasslands, a region of the former Outer Colonies where the former Human worlds had their surfaces turned to glass and their atmospheres boiled away. By 2555, the San 'Shyuum had become extinct and their followers dissolved in civil war or unable to reorganize in the face of Human and Sangheili retaliation. The UNSC would hand power back to the UCE following the end of the Human-Covenant War and the deconstruction of emergency government and martial law that had existed for 3 decades. In November of 2553, the UCE elected its first President in more than 20 years."

Language & Religion

The UCE is a cultural powerhouse of languages, years of development through Human history. As of 2555, English is the most spoken language and the de facto language of the Human species, however, among them Mandarin Chinese, French, Compiled Spanish, German, Russian, Japanese, Arabic, and Modern Hindi are also common. Also notable are the prominent non-spoken languages of Binary Basic, the basic Human computer language that has become the most-used language, even more than English, International Sign Language, the modern language for deaf individuals, and Morse, a style of communication measured using a series of clicks rated similar to Binary and has been in service to Humans for over 700 hundred years.

Religion in 2555 remains one of the strongholds of Human culture, the biggest three are Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism, however, Hinduism, Judaism, and multiple others are also practiced at a lesser

degree. Currently, the number of humans that are not religious are significantly higher than that of religious groups at a 60% of humans are irreligious, 35% are religious, and 5% are rated to be unsure of their beliefs.

Military

[_Type of Government â€“ Emergency Government, Defense Department_]

[_Constitution â€“ UN Charter_]

[_Head of State â€“ Admiral "Lord" Terrance Jefferson Hood_]

[_Date of Establishment â€“ 1945_]

[_Currency â€“ UN Credit_]

[_Capital â€“ Sydney, Australia (Former: New Alexandria, Reach)_]

[_Language â€“ English (Most Spoken), others_]

"_**Nam et hominem super terram.**_**"** â€“ Motto of the United Nations Security Council following the Castillo Treaty of 2170, Latin for "For Earth and Man."

Founded in 1945, the UNSC or United Nations Security Council acted as the impromptu military wing of the United Nations. The structure of the UNSC was centered on the council of 5 regional powers of Earth at the time, the victors of World War Two. China, Russia, America, Britain, and France.

Reforms in the 2020s and 2030s increased the Council membership roster from 5 to 15 and helped correct the unrestrained power struggle between regional powers. When the Interplanetary War occurred in the 2100s, the United Nations were severely unprepared and were forced to establish long-lasting treaties between former enemies to stabilize the Human population that was greatly divided between the beliefs of radical Socialism, Communism, and the well-established Capitalism systems of recent human history.

The 2170 Treaty of Castillo would be the final peg and death note to the nation-state era in Human history, the Castillo Treaty legitimized the UCE as the government of Humanity, and the UNSC as its ruling military faction.

Using a Solar Sail-armed space probe, the craft known as Hawkings I reached the closest star system to Earth, Alpha Centauri in 2223, becoming the farthest-traveling and fastest man-made object ever created. This record still stands today for Real Space due to the discovery of interdimensional space travel, known as Slipspace.

Following decades of urban development in the Sol System, in 2291, UNSC-sponsored scientists, Tobias Shaw and Wallace Fujikawa created the first hypothetical trans-light transportation drive, the Shaw-Fujikawa Translight Drive, more commonly referred to as the Slipspace/Slipstream Drive. For a century and a half, the UNSC under the command of the UCE government, led the drive to establish

colonies throughout the Orion Arm.

In 2308, the UNSC decided to make the colony world of Reach its fortress world; its tactically valuable location at 10.5 light years from Earth and being in the center of the Inner Colonies made it a great staging area for reacting to unknown threats and putting down rebellious colonies. The Reach establishment would remain a political fixture between the CAA and UNSC until the Human-Covenant War is it was felt by CAA officials as infringement on the checks and balances of power.

In 2495, the UNSC recognized the name change from United Nations Security Council to the more publically known name, the United Nations Space Command. The Insurrections would force the UNSC to intervene in the CAA's territory and begin a proxy war against multiple rebel factions and cells. Many historians agree that had the UNSC not intervened at the Far Isle outer colony in 2492, the CAA and UNSC wouldn't have seen such high amounts of resistance with the eruption of radical groups like the New Colonial Alliance, Human Liberation Front, and Eridanus Rebels, etc. The deployment of nuclear weapons on established rebel hideouts by the UNSC Navy is what started the Insurrections even if the UNSC had been fighting rebels as far back as 10 years earlier. The Insurrections are best known for the declassified operation of OPERATION: TREBUCHET, where the UNSC deployed several Spartan II fireteams, a full battlegroup including the UNSC escort carrier _Last Light_; the operation would be considered a pyrrhic victory due to the revival of several rebel cells following the Human-Covenant War in 2553.

In 2525, the UNSC would make contact with Covenant exploration forces in orbit of the primarily agrarian colony world of Harvest. After a failed first contact, the war with the Covenant would last for 3 decades leading to mass genocide, starvation, and destruction of infrastructure. The UCE would lose a majority of its territory and population following the war with a loss of 772 worlds, 113 colonies, and 23 billion people dead. The region spanning formerly Outer and some of the Inner Colonies was renamed the Glasslands after a majority of the worlds claimed by Humanity had their surfaces turned to glass by plasma bombardment and multiple accounts of nuclear winter. For three decades, the UNSC applied martial law and removed the President from office to slow the advance of the Covenant War machine. In 2553 CE, the UNSC would return power back to the government, however, power would still be held by the UNSC powerhouse until 2555.

The commander of all UNSC forces, is the British royal descendent, Admiral Lord Terrence J. Hood. Hood served throughout the Insurrections and during the Human-Covenant War and is currently working as Department Head of the UNSC and takes charge of 6 fleets with around 508 ships left in the UNSC arsenal. Currently the 1st Fleet/Home Fleet operates out of Earth, the 6th Fleet/Mars Support Fleet operates at Mars, the 4th Fleet is stationed at Reach as a primary center of recolonization, and the 7th fleet maintains a constant defensive perimeter at the colony world of Morse IV, a relatively quiet colony that remained undiscovered by Covenant forces during the duration of the War. The UNSC 9th and 12th Fleets are on constant deployments between the Inner Colonies, Glasslands, and the Jirlahanae-controlled space.

Of the UNSC, the most notable figure is the MIA Spartan II, Master

Chief Petty Officer Sierra-117. He and the faces of Hood, Presten Cole, the other Spartans, John Stride, and James Ackerson are common figures remembered for their service during the war.

The UNSC maintains an active military service consisting of five branches: UNSC Navy, UNSC Marines Corps, UNSC Army, UNSC Air Force, and UNSC Spartan Corps.

Colonies

[_Type of Government â€“ Administration Department, Defense Department_]

[_Constitution â€“ UN Colonial Defense Charter of 2194_]

[_Head of State â€“ N/A_]

[_Date of Establishment â€“ 2319_]

[_Date of Dissolution â€“ 2528_]

[_Currency â€“ UN Credit_]

[_Capital â€“ Suez City, Far Isle_]

[_Language â€“ English (Most Spoken), others_]

"_**Custos eius per omne tempus**_**." â€“ **Motto of the Colonial Administration Authority in 2320 meaning "A Guardian for all Time."

The Colonial Administration Authority is currently a defunct department of the UCE, information pertaining to the CAA is limited. Currently the UNSC administrates all colonization efforts in legislation and maintenance.

Since 2319, the Colonial Administration Authority managed the colonies outside 10 light years of the Sol and Epsilon Eridani Systems, considered the management zone of the military organization, the UNSC, however, UNSC naval patrols regularly pass the outer reaches of Human Speech usually taking 2 to 3 administrative tours, a sour controversy between the CAA and the UNSC until the CAA's dissolution. Much like the UNSC, the CAA maintains its own military assets including multiple planetary militias, naval forces, and its separate military command structure and industry. The CAA's mission was primarily diplomacy, administration, and colonial defense; the CAA has had its capabilities as a fighting force limited and kept to regulatory affairs. Due to the start of the Insurrection and later the Human-Covenant War, the CAA saw its capabilities further stunted and its eventual demise for being unable to handle its continued missions, upon its dissolution the UNSC and other departments absorbed the duties of the CAA.

There is evidence, found by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, before the CAA's disbanding, that many high-ranking members were affiliates to many Insurrection factions that ultimately led to the high death toll that occurred during this violent time period.

Xenoarcheology

While it's been widely accepted since the late 21st century, that there, with definitive reasoning, was life on other worlds other than Earth, as exemplified by the obsolete and highly controversial Drake Equation that hypothesized that the universe was teeming with advanced civilizations. Xenoarcheology, as a scientific field of study, was not recognized until the 2470s when it became indisputable among leading researchers that among the 12 planets Humanity had discovered with existing biospheres, five of these worlds became colonies including Reach and Arcadia, and on two of them, ancient ruins created not by humans or any known alien civilization were discovered. Both of these ruins were more advanced than that of the closest Human equivalent, these discoveries were separately made in 2472 and 2494. It would take another six decades of the Human-Covenant War to discover that these trinkets of technology, were really ruins left with the extinction of the Forerunner species. While it was later found that at least 28 of Humanity's worlds, glassed or otherwise, had held Forerunner ruins.

While these discoveries were made in the 25th century, it's wrong to assume this was the first kind of alien contact, Humanity had. Ever since the 16th century, reports of "miracle metals," documented accounts of unearthly metallic alloys not of natural synthesis, these sheets of metal, really shrapnel from destroyed starships long eroded away had left behind to be buried in the Earth's crust. Early research of the metal led to the creation of the Japanese samurai swords through its comparison to carbon nanotubes, and was used sparingly as a currency in South China for a century or two, and Nazi Germany's development on the first prototype stealth bomber due to the metals' lack of radar detection and strange, roundish design.

Most of these discoveries were found in North America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Over the years of research, the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, had implemented research on the alien metals in hopes of discovering ways to build better armor for their war machines. However, before either nation could come up with a discovery, the arms race came to a close. The United States, continuing its research eventually used a similar metal alloy to develop the first space elevator prototypes, and later led the development of the current warship alloys used by UNSC forces.

While it's accepted widely today that Forerunner technology has greatly affected Humanity's progress, it is also realized that research on the ruins and technology discovered did little to speed up technological development, only at most shaving off a few decades in research and development.

Foreign Relations

Due to the rather recent war with the Covenant species and factions, few dialogues have been opened with the former enemies. Currently the only recognized ally of the UCE is the Sangheili government of Sanghelios, their proper designation is the United Keeps of Sanghelios. However, relations with the Sangheili have proven strained at times.

Following the Human-Covenant War, the UCE had fallen back into an economic and cultural recession with nearly all its worlds taken or scorched, half their population decimated, the UCE was on the brink

of collapse. However, its recognizable rivals in Sangheili space were doing no better. A lack of social services and an unhealthy dependency on the now defunct Covenant hierarchy, the alien species had nowhere else to turn too.

Mass unemployment, starvation, and sickness caused many aliens to migrate to the former and inhabited worlds of their former enemy, the Humans, for a better change of pace for themselves. There, colonies and cultural slums sprung up, met with a large amount of xenophobic violence. However, following the brief Vadam War in 2553 that solidified Thel Vadam, the Sangheili Arbiter, a title synonymous with Secretary-General or President, have moved to stabilize the growing unrest on both Sangheili and Human worlds.

The Arbiter and his Council of military leaders, known as Shipmasters or Keep Masters, synonymous with generals, admirals, and politicians similar to the hierarchy of Feudal Japan began to formally trade and negotiations with the UCE offering technology and economic aid for food, resources, and emergency funds to establish its own self-sustaining government and stabilize its planets. Some historians have compared this relationship between the UCE and UKS as that of the United States and Europe at the end of World War Two with the Marshall Plan.

Currently, most Humans and Sangheili look upon one another with suspicion but the two factions agreed to peace, even including a formal treaty between one another. They both maintain their borders with constant military patrols and even manage cooperative operations between the UNSC and the Swords of Sanghelios, the Sangheili military. Their missions tend to vary between border patrols, direct action against the Storm Covenant, a group of Sangheili radicals led by Jul 'Mdama, Covenant loyalists, Pirates, Insurrectionists, and providing social aid to alien refugees.

The UNSC still continues to manage an open-war policy toward the former Covenant races, the fragmented Jirlahanae-led Covenant Loyalists have slowly begun to be pushed out of the Glasslands and even former Covenant colony worlds on the Sangheili front, the expected endgame for the UCE legislation, a plan agreed loosely with the UKS, has called for a cooperative occupation of the suspected homeworld of the Jirlahanae, Dosiac, and the extermination of all San 'Shyuum, referred to as Prophets, and a possible reestablishment of former client species' governments of the Covenant. This policy is planned to be completed somewhere between 2556 and 2564.

The UCE also has limited communication with smaller, peaceful factions among the Unggoy, Jirlahanae, Yanme'e, and Ruuitan Kig-Yar, Mgalekgolo, and Yonhet.

However, the healing of old wounds, following the events of the war, there were those on both sides that had attempted acts of terrorism due to the tense peace. UNSC Air Force Security stopped a Kig-Yar from deploying a small anti-matter charge on Mars in December 2554, another incident occurred when a group of human farmers lynched an Unggoy worker on the colony of Gilgamesh in the February 2554. Mass riots in Alexandria, Egypt have also proved violent over the glassing of Southern Africa and food shortages due to the subsequent drying of the Nile River.

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2. Homo Evolutis

_**...**_

Chapter 1: Homo Evolutis

Words: 3921

Franchise: Halo, Mass Effect

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The Humanity of the Twenty-sixth Century: Homo Evolutis?

"_**During the 21**__**st**__** century, a new question became apparent as Humanity's advancement gradually jumped tenfold, they wondered what Humanity's future would be like.**_

**Many began to realize, as Homo sapiens grew, they found themselves growing closer to the eventful day that would change their future forever. No longer would human evolution be in the hands of Nature, but in the hands of mankind itself. No longer did our ancestors need the environmental handicaps and training wheels bestowed upon them by the Grander Universe, they had come to realize their destiny was in their hands.**

**Their future, their evolution. Just within their grasp, waiting to be seized. The new, provocative thoughts both intrigued and scared people, however, they were questions that had to be asked. While shuffling through old pages from the Internet databanks I found a piece of their mind, from over 5 centuries of history embedded in the digital realm, not seen by human eyes in years.**

**On this webpage, the questions of "Homo Evolutis" were asked, the hypothetical name of this future mankind. I have left a list from the page below:**

"_**Will we reach a point where we can no longer be defined as Human? Should we [Our predecessors] even care?"**_

"_**With the human race as flawed as it is, what will be the repercussions of making people super-human?"**_

"_**How will this affect society as a whole? (Workforce, criminality, warfare, etc.)"**_

**It has come to our understanding that our ancestors were no better at fortune-telling then we are today. Some suggested a race of super-human cyborgs, some suggested a humanity that resembled the aliens of their nightmares, some thought a creature nothing like what they had seen before; some ideas became so outlandish, they were ridiculed by the masses or were never expanded beyond a single thought: a human race of artificial intelligences, a hive mind, and there were those who refused to speculate believing we would be dead before they could answer that question.**

_**Ironically, some of their claims did come to fruition: genetic

modification, AIs, cybernetic implants, etc. However, with all their fancy predictions, the greatest thought of future Humans they could never imagine: the future looking more like the past.**_

**Humans today are very much and are nearly identical to our "flawed" ancestors, I assure you though that we are very much different. However, that doesn't end without similarities. Today, mankind's evolution has been defined by our cultural beliefs because in of itself, Nature no longer binds us, we are in control of our own future.**

**Tracking our own evolution from the twenty first century onward reveals how we reached this point and what it means to be Human. I dare people to look into our past; it helps to remember, for the Future."**

Excerpt from "Spaces in Twilight: an Alternate Perspective from Leading Authors of the Age," Alan B. Sorbent, January 2503 (3-time winning Nebula Award Recipient, Author of "Man of War, the Crucible, and Life of a Star")

â€¦

Sorbent was correct to wonder the differences of mankind from the twenty-first century and to our Humanity today, we are a very different people. Human evolution has been changing as has everything in the universe since its creation, however, it was the 21st century that was the most special: it was the point upon which we became, how about "self-aware." Like the term we described for our first "smart" artificial intelligence, Humans became aware of their ability to control their specie's development, their genetics. Man could now be whatever it chose and ironically, for all the time wasted asking, we ended up looking very close to what we were then.

We are human, but that isn't to say we're not different.

As technology grows; so do we.

Probably the best place to start with history is the first time scientists successfully cloned an organism without any ill side effects such as fatal mutations, weakened immune systems, and incomplete genomes that also led to mutations.

In 1996, scientists managed to produce their first successful clone: Dolly the Sheep. By tampering with natural genetics using techniques still in their infancy, researchers at the Roslin Institute in European Scotland created the first successful clone of a mammal. However, Dolly, due to her genetic donor died of a lung disease and was already growing with age. Dolly's genetics suffered from a shortened lifespan, severe arthritis, and lung disease. She was euthanized in 2003.

The research gained from Dolly eventually helped scientists extend their range of cloning through the practice of what has now been called "nuclear transfer." However, after years of continued tests it was decided that the technique was too unpredictable for use in humans. If this technique ever became viable, it could have allowed infertile mothers the chance to have an offspring and could hypothetically bringing human bodies back from the dead; their brain data however, was discovered to not be recoverable in the clone

format.

The development by nuclear transfer however, would lead to mass production of lab-produced organs on the economic level. It also led to the rebirth of a large number of previously extinct animal species, the first successful recreation, the Tasmanian Wolf-Tiger, also known as the Thylacine in 2038.

A cure for cancer, or the uncontrolled growth of somatic cellular reproduction, was finally realized in 2016 and fully deployed, usage of pathogens once deadly to humans to directly kill cancerous cells and later-stage tumors. Today, instead of radiation therapy or the subjection of steroids and pathogens to kill uncontrolled cell growth, modern medical tech uses cheap micro-sized Nanities to target cells at the individual level to maintain overall health, Nanities are also used today to cure just about any minor to complex problem in the medical world. Sadly, science has yet to cure death, no one can live forever, but we've managed to increase the human lifespan to around two centuries, thanks to research into cancer and the practices to eliminate the condition. The oldest human in recorded history as of the 26th century lived to 242 years old, Alexander Nolan.

Many of the technologies just beginning to mature in the 21st century are the reason why our living standards today are so much higher.

_**Our ability to live on other worlds beyond Earth:**__ Genetic modification at the embryotic stage that tampered unsubstantially with the basic Human genome turning on the Humans' ability to adjust to varying degrees of gravity with minimal effort and the increased research and understanding of both the human genome and our prey species' genomes have allowed us to strengthen both our overall capabilities of our bodies and build stronger immune systems to many alien environments. Our dependency on oxygen, water, food, and many other life necessities however, are still not within our grasp; so humans not needing a space suit in a vacuum is still a long time away._

_**Lack of Sickness and our Increase in Lifespans: **__With the achievement of cheaply produced microchips and nanotech, we've been able to augment our bodies with technology stopping illnesses in their tracks and kill invading pathogens and ailing conditions before they can mature into severity. However, due to the human body's inability to maintain a foreign substance or objects, the Nanities cannot remain in our bodies for more than 24 hours before being ejected through primal procedures of homeostasis. The unlocking of the cell's potential found in telomeres of DNA has allowed genetic modification to double the human lifespan and perfected flash cloning of human body parts that has led to the ability to clone missing organs and re-circuit, attach, or even grow some limbs. Cloning of entire people is strictly immoral and is banned from all forms of practice except limited testing in some lab firms under the supervision of government monitoring._

_**Our "Cyborg-ness": **__A popular misconception that dates back as far as the ideas of the first machines, the combination of man and machine, even in our age has never been fully realized nor has it been encouraged. Social formalities and morality have often been brought up but in all honesty, it has never been a path Humanity has

taken for one reason or another._

_The closest we've come to such actions is the inclusion of microchips that augmented the Human brain's ability to process and store information, however, the actual chips are only self-contained, only augmenting a person's capacities, are only as effective as the person using them. The chip is connected to the human nervous system through biological-static impulses, however, there has been speculation on the capabilities of replacing the human nervous system except the brain with an artificial system that is both stronger and more capable than that of the human body, however, research is still in its infancy and has barely escaped the speculation phase. What little else we do have are the holographic contact lens that have been in use since the 21__st__ century, electronic lens that go over the eyes and project images for the human eyes to register to the brain. The technology has gotten so effective, the lens have surpassed the human eyes' capacities including vision that can be increased by over 100x, the ability to connect to wireless communications and the Web, and the interactions through eye movement and body signals even allowing for augmented reality with the lens. The lens, depending on the brand can also be used underwater, stay permanently on the host's eyes, and in some cases be melted into harmless gelatin that washes out of the eye with tears when in need of disposal. Other cyborg-like capabilities include: object control through brain impulses (mind control), augmented physical capabilities through mechanical exoskeletons (both private and public sectors) being made of mechanical parts and carbon fiber suits that adapt much like human muscles. One of the biggest components of our "cyborg" status, is the ability to create "cybernetic individuals," AIs and cybernetic carbon copies of dead brains, both human and animal (see Smart AIs, also human brains are much more popular because of the process for copying a mind)._

_**Robotics and the Singularity: **__It's disappointing to say the least that a true singularity, at least where a machine discovers its own intelligences and self-awareness, has never been achieved. There are currently two subtypes to modern AIs, the "dumb" AI and the "smart" AI. The dumb AIs or the true form of modern artificial intelligence, are robots with simulated personalities and a set standard for their capacity to learn depending on their required task. Dumb AIs are nothing like they're smart cousins, they do not have free wills; they are dependent on human aid to run because they still suffer from issues such as viruses and glitches in their system. While organic minds are just as fallible to "glitches;" organic minds are capable of overcoming their issues. An AI's glitch may never be gotten around. The dumb AI's have settings and require stimulation by encoding a required task and the machine will work solely to meet that task and nothing else only learning to adapt to changing scenarios when an unspecified, outside parameter is met. Without human aid, a dumb AI will continue on its task until its software or hardware deteriorates into "death."_

_A "smart" AI however, a true intelligence, by human standards, is capable of learning to its full potential and has self-awareness. Smart AIs are built from the human brain's neural pathways that are mapped during the copying process. This process, first developed in the 23__rd__ century, allowed for the cloning of a human brain and to rebirth a human mind in digital form, similar to the concept of reincarnation. However, it has drawbacks, most notably is the destruction of the host organ during the process because of the

radiation required to map out the host's mind. Then there is the loss of memories and the suspected core personality of the new AI or now deceased donor. The AI and donor are two separate people with entirely different personalities and identities which has been a topic of much controversy and speculation on whether the process kills the old individual or not. Then there is the improbable equation of adapting AI lifespans to that of humans, the minds downloaded into code lived at a significantly higher speed so that the lives, much like humans are limited to a number of years. Much like human bodies, the AIs will eventually die because of the deterioration of their copied pathways that age even in digital form, essentially the computers think themselves to death, unable to stop much like human brains except at a much faster pace. Current generation AIs are able to live up to about a decade or more, the third-fourth-fifth generations. With each evolution, the efficiency and time span of AIs grow better and longer but death like for all sentience, is inevitable. The smart AIs, while not recognized as a sentient being on the standards of human rights and sentient beings, smart AIs have never seen the need for such rights due to living in a digital realm parallel to that of Mankind. Current research is reaching the point where it may soon be possible to restart the clock of their aging process at the cost of their memories and information they contain. Only the core personality can be extracted in current processes, with varying success. The Smart AI must be subjected to this operation before "Rampancy," the degradation of an AI's learning capacity, can occur or the damage will be irreversible._

**Technology: **

The use of our antigravity: the magnetization of particles to simulate gravities.

The modern weapons of the UNSC: the same technology from years before yet "mastered" to a sophisticated degree rather than development of new weaponry and war technology.

Colonization: The use of comets, asteroids, and antimatter explosives to slow or accelerate the orbit of a possible colony world followed by the deployment of atmospheric tools to create or adapt an atmosphere to be livable and then introduction of flora from other colonies or Earth into the environment that will slowly adapt to the new world. This process usually takes a century or so.

Our abilities to adapt and grow on different worlds has ultimately bee our distinguishing moment from our ancestors, we may look like them, we act like them, we think like them. We aren't them however, we've grown up but that doesn't mean we aren't human. It is wrong to assume that we have become Homo evolutis, we're still Homo sapiens, we're modern man; after all it's only been about 400 years since we started tampering with our genetics beyond that of Nature's control. We aren't very different, but we are in fact more advanced. So no we're not a new species, and the effects of the changes we've made haven't been very ground breaking. However, should we care? Of course we should.

Along with our focus on our technology and the advancement of our physical and social standards, one of the biggest signs of our advancement is our military. After all, throughout our history, conflict has driven innovation.

Below is a list of UNSC Naval warships, provided from the UNSC Public Relations Office, the information on UNSC warships shows the very pinnacle of Human ingenuity. Colony ships, transport craft, and civilian craft are not labeled as they are not owned by the UNSC or they belong to the UCE Department of Colonial Management.

_Frigates:__ Considered the workhorse of the Fleet, Frigates are light combat warships armed with moderate weaponry and armor. Frigates act as escorts for larger warships, fire support vessels, scout ships, and landing craft for infantry. Frigates are the most common warships in the UNSC arsenal and subsequently are known for the highest casualty count of any warship during the Great War. Usually measuring between 400 and 500m, frigates are generally small being only slightly larger than their aquatic counterparts; they designate as __FFG__, __FFE__, __FFX__, and __FF__. __Classes:__ Charon-class (FFG), Remembrance-class (FFX), Daring-class (FFG), Paris-class (FFG), Stalwart-class (FF), and P.K. Stride "Strident"-class (FFE)._

_Destroyers:__ Considered in the same group as Frigates, Destroyers are, or were, around 400-600m long and were of the light combat warship classification, however with the 2555 New Naval Registry Act, Great War-era destroyers have been downgraded to Destroyer Escorts, designation __DEH__ and __DEL__. The modern destroyer is instead made up of one class, created around the end of the war as part of Project: Olympus, the new destroyers of the Sun Tzu â€“ class are 900m long and are designated as __DDX__ and are acting capital ships. Destroyer Escorts maintain fleet security during combat and escort larger Destroyers and Cruisers during exploration, long duration missions, and flotilla operations. Destroyers can be deployed with a fleet or on their own depending on the assignment due to their capacity to take up multiple mission packages and limited stealth capabilities. Destroyers act as fire support vessels, direct action combatants, and reconnaissance vessels. __Classes:__ Britannica-class (DEL), Demigod-class (DEL), Halberd-class (DEL) Hillsborough-class (DEL), Gorgon-class (DEH), Vanguard-class (DEH), Warrior-class (DEH), and Sun Tzu-class (DDX)._

_Corvettes:__ The smallest of all warships in the UNSC arsenal, Corvettes are considered almost obsolete following the Great War. Corvettes are generally 100 to 200m long and used to provide for a multitude of roles. As of 2555, most, if not all, have been strike from the Registry except for 18. Current operations of these patrol craft are set to end in 2558 and to be replaced by the Strident-class Escort Frigates. Most functions of Corvettes today serve as training vessels, colonial defense, anti-piracy, and planetary defense. Most Corvettes have either been scrapped, destroyed in combat, sold, stolen, or used for target practice. Their designation is __CC__. Classes: Yuri Gagarin-class (CC), Mako-class (CC), Sputnik-class (CC), Bow-class (CC), Orca-class (CC)._

_Prowlers:__ Stealth craft in service to the Office of Naval Intelligence, Prowlers and their derivatives are intelligence craft that act independently from the UNSC Naval Command structure and report directly to the ONI Board of Directors. Most information on these elusive craft are classified however are generalized to measure anywhere from 100m to 1km and are equipped with light but advanced and experimental technology that gives them an edge over most

warships. They are suggested to be capable of generating invisibility bubbles in space by refracting light off particles that surround the craft, carry plasma weaponry on par with Covenant ships, and being commandeered by young officers because of requirements of Prowler captains being able to remain active for long durations of time. Prowlers technically fall in the same category as Corvettes but are expected to remain in service for decades to follow. Their designation is __ONI-PC__. __Classes:_**[REDACTED]**

_Cruisers:__ The middle ground vessels of the Fleet, Cruisers serve as fleet commanders, carrier defense, intelligence gathering, and direct action combatants. True Capital ships, Cruisers embody the modern combat vessel acting as mobile bases for all Military branches being able to handle more fighters than destroyers and fight like destroyers but serve the roles of the larger carriers and other Capital ships. Interestingly enough, Cruisers are known to fall into several subclasses of their own: Battlecruiser, Escort Cruiser, Light Cruiser, and Heavy Cruiser. Battlecruisers and Heavy Cruisers are direct action vessels and lone wolf combatants primarily but also serve as fleet commanding vessels sometimes called "Command Cruisers." The Escort Cruisers act as escorts for larger Capital Ships, most notably carriers. The Light Cruisers act as auxiliary and lone wolf combatants even with lighter weaponry then that of Heavy and Battlecruisers because of their remarkable design (legacy of Halcyon design). Cruisers are among the longest standing relics of the Fleet, the least replaced and most maintained warships in the UNSC. They go by the designation of __HCC__, __LCC__, __BCC__, and __CCE__. Cruisers measure usually from 900m to 1200m in length. __Classes:__ Hermes-class (CCE), Springfield-class (LCC), Halcyon-class (LCC), Gladiator-class (LCC), Marathon-class (HCC), Autumn-class (HCC), Valiant-class (BCC), and Reaper-class (BCC)._

_Assault Ships:__ Fitting the niche between Carriers and Cruisers, Assault Ships are considered some of the largest warships in the UNSC arsenal. Usually designed from the old hulls of warships and well-kept, converted colony ships. Modern Assault Ships, while no longer made from hulls of subpar ships, a requirement because of plate armor shortages during the Human-Covenant War. Today, it was found from combat logs that survival rates of the larger Phoenix-class hull conversions were among the highest during the war able to go toe to toe with Covenant cruisers and destroyers with relative ease. Today the Phoenix class is the primary assault ship measuring at about the same size as pre-war carriers at 2.5 kilometers. The original assault ships were actually only a kilometer in length and were essentially cruisers with better capabilities for landing ground forces and providing fire support for other forces. All Assault Ships fall before the war and during were referred as their original designation, usually CFV or LCC, today they have been designated as __FAA__. Classes: Phoenix-class (FAA) and Rebecca Haze-class (FAA)._

_Fleet Tenders:__ No fleet can maintain itself without the help of support ships and repair vessels, Fleet Tenders are military vessels, usually noncombatants (however that doctrine changed with the Human-Covenant War), and were used primarily to provide assistance to the Fleet. Spare parts, repairs for battle damage, maintenance of most nonessential systems, and the production of new upgrades and parts during long deployments. Fleet Tenders are among the most common warships of the fleet because of their tendency to escape the

battle before it begins to protect their vitality to Fleet operations. Fleet Tenders are large and measure about 1 kilometer in length, however, are not considered capital ships. Their fleet designation is reserved as __AE__ and __FTNC__. __Classes:__ Essex-class (AE), Vulcan-class (FTNC), and Da Vinci-class (FTNC)._

_Battleships:__ Following the fall of the Covenant, the UNSC made moves to improve their naval doctrine in hopes that when the next threat reared its head that they would be prepared. Battleships are a recent developed based on experience taken from the relative successes of Halcyon and the Phoenix-classes against larger and more powerful Covenant warships, it was decided that UNSC warships would need to adapt to future threats and existing capabilities of possible and current adversaries during peace time. Battleships are about the size of Cruisers if not bigger, their primary missions are fire support and direct action combatants usually deployed alone or as flag ships for task forces. Their designations are __HBB__ and __LBB__. __Classes:__ Vindication-class (LCC), Yamato-class (BCC), and Reaper-class (HBB)._

_Carriers:__ The centerpiece of all UNSC naval doctrines, Carriers have been the hallmark of all naval strategy dating back to the 20__th__ century. Carriers, as their names suggest, carry support vessels, fighters, bombers, troop transports, landing craft, etc. Carriers provide a fleet with the ability to affect battle in orbit of planets and in atmosphere without a direct presence increasing a fleet's are of effect significantly. Carriers are also some of the few UNSC vessels capable of going toe-to-toe with Covenant warships larger than 2 kilometers making them indisputably needed for any military action. While other ships may carry guns and smaller combat craft, the Carriers have significantly more numbers than that of their smaller counterparts. Recently, technology has also made it possible for carriers to become their own battle groups. The Infinity Task Force, the largest UNSC warship ever constructed, is capable of carrying 10 Escort Frigates in its belly. Carriers serve as flag ships and support vessels but are capable of direct action but is not suggested because of their strategic value in combat. Their fleet designation is __LCV__, __HCV__, __SCVN__ and __CVN__. __Classes:__ Poseidon-class (LCV), Epoch-class (HCV), Orion-class (CVN) Infinity-class (SCVN), and Enterprise-class (SCVN)._

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3. Cobra Protocol

_**Short chapter, I don't know when I will finally get back to Beyond Contact, but I'm currently locked down between homework and developing other stories. I have about 19 total ideas, some used some not yet! But I'll get back to Beyond Contact soon, and I've come to reimagine the story a little, I've been reading several books and watching some war movies and I think I got a new idea, but it will be based on the similar premise and retain most if not all the current material just with more updated features and more realistic action scenes and dialogue. Hope this keeps you guys at least a little interested and also I suggest checking out my other stories or the favorite stories on my profile, there are a lot of stories you may find interesting there if you consider my work interesting, after all the authors I like are leagues ahead of me. Thanks for the support

and read and review!**_

**Also a little clarification, this is in no way referencing GI Joe if someone thought that, names and ideas are coincidental.**

_**...**_

Chapter 1: Cobra Protocol

Words: 1306

Franchise: Halo, Mass Effect

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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

TITLE: "COBRA PROTOCOL"

SENDER: "CALLSIGN: LEONIDAS" (AISD â€“ West Point War College, Earth)

...

"Things have changed, with Infinity rolling out into combat I think we need to look at our priorities. Time to take stock, make plans, and set our paths for the next administration. The government is only beginning to rebuild and within the next two or three years, there is going to be a power grab, especially from within ONI. Watch your back, not everyone is an ally. I've got one of these priorities planned from my division but I need your support from Naval Intelligence, I can't pull this off when Osman's got her nose deep in everyone's problems."

"In the event of renewed conflict with former Covenant member-states, organized resurgence of Insurrectionist activity, or a collapse of the alliance between the UCE and UKS, or if the unexpected happens, another failed First Contact. We move forward with Cobra Protocol."

"In the case of Cobra Protocol, any number of forces must be quickly mobilized in response to any threats. Our best option, much like our lower state of conflicts during the 21st and 23-24th centuries, is to effectively and quickly deploy asymmetrical warfare units to act as Damage Control. We cannot allow another Insurrection or Covenant War, our fragile state today would not hold. As head of the Army War-games Department with Army Intelligence & Security Division, I would suggest the deployment of SFCU, i.e. Special Forces-capable Units. This is not only Army, but all of the UNSC branches: Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Spartans."

"No need for this whole inter-service political BS jargon, we need to act as a cohesive unit, not a bunch of smaller states within our organization going at each other's heads. If we can't work together for Mankind, than we will be defeated as easily as we had predicted during Great War. We're lucky the Human Liberation Front and their associates, backed down as the war became more public or we would have been sorely defeated by the Covenant by 2532 (see Army Intelligence Council Briefing MP02, 03 August 2527)."

"Due to our new advancements in post-war technology and weapons development, we may actually stand on an actual footing to the former Covenant states, however, while we have surely made up for our lack of quality during the War, our quantity is horribly lacking. I have brought this before both ONI director Parangosky and ONI director Osman who succeeded her. Both my associates and I have been met with stonewalled criticism. I would like to bring this before the Council directly so that it may be understood, away from the scrutiny of the Office and directly to the board. WE NEED THIS PROTOCOL. I would also like to point out ever since our primer Army liaison to the Navy was KIA, ONI has not been willing to negotiate."

"I am outlining a new directive; our current Special Forces are ready to react at the first signs of war, all the UNSC needs is the signature of the President and the consent of Congress to go to war, but in the case that some form of gridlock or other problem that was not predicted to occur, our quick-reaction forces should not be stopped from carrying out missions upon any threat that we may face."

"I'm asking for the creating of a JSOC initiative, something achene to its namesake from the 21st century. Our special mission units will not be in the hands of the politicians but the military hierarchy with the Defense Department."

"The units will be kept on wartime status indefinitely and will be the first forces to deploy in any given conflict. Finer details about how this program will be set up can be discussed in the official chambers at a later date, for now I'm asking for a hearing."

"Also, a fair warning, this entire operation could also blow up in our faces. Depending on the morality of our forces especially noted from the psychological report on failed Spartan IV, Ilsa Zane and several incidents where soldiers have gone AWOL and have acted against the state. We need to take account on the possible issues that come with acquiring so many men and women in a single force. There are always those that threaten the integrity of the unity and some may have issues with their trust or loyalty to the chain of command. My worst fear is if the UNSC were to suddenly break up, the integrity of the task force will be pushed to the furthest extreme, if it breaks there will be no return from this. If we do start a recruitment spree, we need to know everything and anything about these soldiers. If we don't know them, we risk the chance of falling apart for we can do any good for Mankind. Mankind must always be first."

"Below I'm including the units I'm considering, you might notice something. I've included ALL OF THEM. The UNSC needs all its cards in hand at all times. When deploying fleets and armies can't get the job done, than it will be in the hands of a few that will decide our fates. Our survival hangs on this decision, we need these soldiers, please get it done from your side since you have more leeway with Admiral H. more than anyone else. Hope your job with Section 0 isn't too bad, I heard that things are quickly falling apart with the power vacuum over there. I know the information is classified, but ever since that assassination of the head of Section 0 by the New Colonial Alliance. Take care of yourself and contact me back soon."

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UCE â€“ acronym for "United Cantons of Earth and colonies"

UKS â€“ acronym for "United Keeps of Sanghelios"

Cobra Protocol â€“ UNSC reaction contingency for hypothetical escalated conflict

SFCU â€“ acronym for "Special Forces-capable Units," fancy way of saying "Special Forces"

Army Intelligence & Security Division â€“ AISD, Army Intelligence Organization

HLF â€“ acronym for "Human Liberation Front," primary Insurrectionist faction during undeclared Human Civil War

AICB-MP02-08-03-2527 â€“ The "Army Intelligence Council Briefing, Mission Priority 02, dated August 3, 2527" â€“ report by Army Intelligence that suggested that if infighting among the UCE population continued, Humanity would be defeated by the Covenant war machine within 5 years (Briefing has been called into question by Office of Naval Intelligence, ironically the documents is responsible for the Eternal Ark Project, a ONI closed research project that led to the development of the UNSCS Infinity and several other modern UNSC warships that would have made up the last bastion of the UCE if Earth ever fell)

ONI â€“ Office of Naval Intelligence, Naval Intelligence Organization

UNSC - United Nations Security Council/Space Command

JSOC â€“ Joint Special Operations Command

Defense Department â€“ Federal Department in charge of the military budget, military policy, and funding

Section 0 â€“ Office of Naval Intelligence, Section 0 â€“ Internal Affairs (most heavily damaged division of ONI during the War besides Section 3)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Orbital Response Service Division (ORSD) â€“ Air Force

34**th****, 79****th**** Specialized Air Combat Squadron (SACSs) â€“ Air Force**

22**nd****, 73****rd****, 78****th**** Direct Action Airborne Regiment (DAARs) â€“ Army**

1**st****, 2****nd****, 3****rd****, 4****th****, 5****th**** Tactical Assault Group (TAGs) â€“ Army**

21**st****, 39****th****, 42****nd****, 76****th**** Special Mechanized Unit (SMUs, "Walkers") â€“ Army**

75**th****, 89****th****, 93****rd****, 98****th**** Ranger Regiment â€“ Army**

Extravehicular Demolition Teams (EDTs, "Satellites") â€“ Navy

ONI Special Activities Division (ONISAD, "Spooks") â€“ Navy

29**th****, 43rd, 68****th**** Marine Force Reconnaissance Force â€“ Marine Corps**

19**th****, 53****rd**** Hunter Legion ("Scout Snipers") â€“ Marine Corps**

92**nd****, 101****st****, 105****th**** Orbital Drop Shock Trooper Regiment (ODSTs, "Helljumpers") â€“ Marine Corps**

1**st****, 4****th****, 7****th, ****13****th**** Mechanized Infantry Squadron (MISs, "Bitch Bots") â€“ Marine Corps**

Spartan IV Program ("Centurions") â€“ Spartan

Augmented Asymmetrical Warfare Specialists (AAWSs, "Headhunters") â€“ Spartan

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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

TIME: 1700 HOURS, 03 MARCH 2554

RECEIVER: CALLSIGN: "ATLANTA" (ONI, Section 0-Internal Affairs â€“ New York City, Earth)

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End file.